

Remarks

Applicants and the undersigned reviewed the pending Office Action carefully before preparing this response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the positions presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Addressing one of several preliminary matters, Applicants believe the Oath/Declaration previously submitted is proper in all respects. No wording or affirmation of the Oath/Declaration, itself, was amended after signature. Rather, only the mailing address of co-inventor Peiwang Zhu was corrected to reflect a recent move to a new apartment. The address change was made before execution of the document, as indicated by the co-inventor's dated signature, consistent with what has been accepted office practice. If any issue remains, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone and a new Oath/Declaration can be obtained.

The Examiner raised several concerns regarding the figures. Replacement sheets providing the requested corrections are hereby submitted. Again, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should any issue remain.

As a final preliminary matter, a substitute specification is hereby submitted to address the recited informalities. Various trademarks are capitalized, as requested. Several acronyms are defined, without adding new matter, as affirmed in the accompanying statement.

More substantively, the Examiner rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for reasons of non-enablement. Responsive thereto, the Examiner is referred to page 10 of the specification; examples 3b-3c describe a general methodology for preparation of a substrate such as that recited in Claim 18. As illustrated in scheme 2, condensation of a hydroxylated substrate with an aminoalkyltrialkoxysilane provides a surface functionalized for further reaction and/or self-assembly. In light of the

specification and as would be understood by those skilled in the art, it is respectfully suggested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Zhu. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's concern, but respectfully disagree. The Zhu article was presented in September, 2003, with a website preprint appearing in August, 2003. (See, the materials of Exhibit A, incorporated herein by reference.) The corresponding subject matter was disclosed much earlier in the February, 2003 provisional application, from which the present application claims priority. According to this timeline, the Zhu article does not anticipate the present invention. The rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Meyer and/or Fleck references. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's interest in efficient prosecution, but respectfully disagree. Neither Meyer nor Fleck anticipate the claimed invention. Referring to independent Claims 1, 10 and 12, none of the many compounds in Meyer or Fleck disclose Applicants' hydrogen-donor (D) or hydrogen-acceptor (A) moieties. None of the cited A or D moieties are functionally capable of hydrogen-bonding interaction with another or a structurally related compound. For instance, without limitation, the Fleck phenyl moiety cited by the Examiner as comparable to Applicants' A and D is functionally incapable of hydrogen-bonding interaction. Accordingly, neither Meyer nor Fleck is an anticipatory reference. Each rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

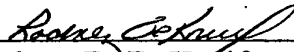
Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Zhu, in combination with the Richter reference. Inasmuch as Zhu is not prior art, its combination with Richter is an inappropriate basis for obviousness. Likewise, this rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claim allowed to proceed toward issue.

Finally, several claims were rejected under the Doctrine of Obviousness-type double patenting in view of the prior Marks patent. However, the Marks patent does not

disclose or suggest the present hydrogen-donor or hydrogen-acceptor moieties. The chromophore compounds in the prior Marks patent are chemically and structurally distinct, and the corresponding self-assembly procedure would lead one away from the present invention. Again, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's interest in efficient prosecution, but there is no obviousness concern raised by the prior Marks patent. As such, this rejection should also be withdrawn, with the subject claims to be allowed to proceed toward issue.

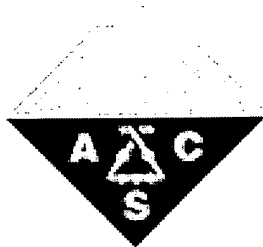
This application is now believed to be condition for allowance. Consistent therewith, prompt favorable action is respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 3, 2006

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